

Devon II.

*Ad General. Quarterial. Session. Pacis Dom. Regis tent. apud Castr. Exon. in & pro Comit. prad. Secundo die Octobris, Anno Regni Dom. nostri Caroli Secundi Dei gratia Angliæ, Scotiæ, Franciæ, & Hiberniæ Regis, Fidei Defensor, &c. Tricesimo quinto, Annoque Dom. 1583.*



WE have been so abundantly convinced of the Seditious and Rebellious Practices of the Sectaries and Phanaticks, who through the Course of above One hundred years since we were first infested with 'em, have scarce afforded this unhappy Kingdom any interval of rest from their Horrid Treasons, as that we must esteem 'em, not only the open Enemies of our Established Government, but to all the common Principles of Society and Humanity it self. Wherefore, that we may prevent their Horrid Conspiracies for the time to come, and secure (as much as in us lies) our most Gracious KING and the GOVERNMENT from the Fury and Malice of 'em, we resolve to put the Severest of the Laws (which we find too Easie and Gentle, unless enlivened by a vigorous Execution) in force against 'em.

1. We Agree and Resolve, in every Division of this County, to require sufficient Sureties for the good Abearing and Peaceable Behaviour of all such as we may justly suspect, or that we can receive any credible Information against, that they have been at any Conventicles and Unlawful Meetings, or at any Factious or Seditious Clubs; or that have by any Discourses discovered themselves to be disaffected to the present Established Government, either in Church or State; or that have been the Authors or Publishers of any Seditious Libels; or that shall not in all things duly conform themselves to the present Established Government.

2. Because we have a sort of False Men, and more perfidious than professed Phanatiques, who either wanting Courage to appear in their own shape, or the better to bring about their Treasonable Designs, privately Associate with, and encourage the Seditious Clubs of the Sectaries, and with them Plot heartily against the Government; and yet, that they may pass unsuspected, sometime appear in the Church with a false shew of Conformity, only to save their Money, and the better to serve their Faction, that we may (if possible) distinguish and know all such dangerous Enemies, we will strictly require all Church-wardens and Constables, at all our Monthly Meetings, to give us a full account of all such as do not every Sunday resort to their own Parish-Churches, and are not at the beginning of Divine Service, and do not behave themselves Orderly and Soberly there, observing all such decent Ceremonies as the Laws enjoyn: And that they likewise Present unto us the Names of all such as have not received the Holy Sacrament of the Lords Supper in their own Parish-Churches Thrice in the Year.

3. Being fully satisfied, as well by the clear Evidence of the late Horrid PLOT, as by our own long and sad Experience, That the Nonconformist Preachers are the Authors and Fomenters of this Pestilent Faction, and the implacable Enemies of the Established Government, and to whom the late Execrable Treasons, which have had such dismal effects in this Kingdom, are principally to be imputed, and who by their present obstinate refusing to Take and Subscribe an Oath and Declaration, *That they do not hold it Lawful to take up ARMS against the KING, and that they will not endeavour any Alteration of Government either in Church or State;* do necessarily enforce us to conclude, that they are still ready to engage themselves, (if not actually engaged) in some Rebellious Conspiracy against the KING, and to invade and Subvert his GOVERNMENT: wherefore we resolve in every Parish of this County, to leave strict Warrants in the hands of all Constables, for the Seizing of such persons. And as an encouragement to all Officers and others, that shall be instrumental in the apprehending of any of them, so as they may be brought to Justice, we will give and allow Forty shillings, as a Reward, for every Nonconformist Preacher that shall be so secured. And we Resolve to prosecute them, and all other such Dangerous Enemies of the Government, and common Absenters from Church, and frequenters of CONVENTICLES, according to the Directions of a Law made in the Five and Thirtieth Year of the Reign of Queen ELIZABETH, Entituled, *An Act for the keeping Her Majesties Subjects in due OBEDIENCE.*

Lastly. That we may never forget the infinite Mercies of Almighty God, in the late Wonderful Deliverance of our Gracious KING, and His Dearest BROTHER, and all His Loyal Subjects, (who were designed for a Massacre) from the Horrid Conspiracy of the Phanatiques, and their Accomplices; and that we may perpetuate as well our own Thankfulness, as their Infamy, that the Generations to come may know their Treachery, and avoid and never trust men of such Principles more; and also, that we our selves may perform our publick Duty to Almighty God, before we enter upon the publick Service of our Countrey: We Order, Resolve, and Agree, with the Advice and Concurrence of the Right Reverend Father in God, our much Honoured and Worthy Lord BISHOP, to give and bestow for the Beautifying of the Chappel in the Castle of EXON, and for the erecting of decent Seats there, Ten pounds: And we will likewise give and continue Six pounds to be paid yearly to any one of the Church of Exon, whom the said Lord BISHOP shall appoint, to read the DIVINE SERVICE, with the Prayers lately appointed for the day of Thanksgiving on the Ninth of September last, and to Preach a Sermon exhorting to OBEDIENCE, in the said Chappel, on the first day of every general Quarter-Sessions of the Peace held in the said Castle, to begin precisely at Eight of the Clock in the Morning.

And may the Mercies of Heaven (which are infinite) always protect our Religious and Gracious KING, his Dearest BROTHER, and every Branch of that ROYAL FAMILY; and may all the Treasonable Conspiracies of those Rebellious Schismatics be always thus happily prevented.

*That the continued Care of His Majesties Justices of the Peace for the County of DEVON, for the Safety of His Majesties Sacred Person, the preservation of the Publick Peace, and advancement of true Religion, may be fuller known, and have a better Effect; I do hereby Order and Require all the CLERGY of my Diocese within the County of Devon, deliberately to publish this Order, the next Sunday after it shall be tendred to them.*

*Hugo Vaughan, Cler. Pacis Com. prad.*

T H O. E X O N.

LONDON: Printed by J. C. and Freeman Collins, for Charles Yeo Bookseller in Exon. 1683.